

Claims

We claim:

1. A method of inducing lethal hypersensitive response in tropical soda apple plants comprising the steps of:
 - (a) obtaining an inoculation suspension comprising Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Virus;
 - (b) applying said inoculation suspension to a few leaves of the tropical soda plant by manual inoculation.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said inoculation suspension includes a buffer and water.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the buffer is sodium phosphate.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said obtaining step comprises extracting Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Virus from host plant tissue in water; filtering the extraction; and freezing the filtered extraction.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said host plant is a tobacco plant susceptible to Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Virus.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said tobacco plant is *Nicotiana tabacum*.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein said extracting step comprises harvesting host plant tissue and placing the tissue in the water in a blender.
8. The method of claim 4, wherein the obtaining step further comprises the step of diluting the extraction with the buffer prior to application on the tropical soda apple plants.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said manual inoculation is performed using cheesecloth.

10. A method of inducing lethal hypersensitive response in tropical soda apple plants comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining an inoculation suspension comprising Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Virus;

(b) applying said inoculation suspension to a few leaves of the tropical soda plant by spray application.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said inoculation suspension includes a buffer and water.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the buffer is sodium phosphate.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said obtaining step comprises extracting Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Virus from host plant tissue in water; filtering the extraction; and freezing the filtered extraction.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said host plant is a tobacco plant susceptible to Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Virus.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said tobacco plant is *Nicotiana tabacum*.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said extracting step comprises harvesting host plant issue and placing the tissue in the water in a blender.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the obtaining step further comprises the step of diluting the extraction with the buffer prior to application on the tropical soda apple plants.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the spray application is provided at a pressure of 400 p.s.i. or greater.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said spray application is provided by a sprayer that is operated from a vehicle.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of injuring the tropical soda plants prior to applying said inoculation suspension.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein injuring the tropical soda plants comprises mowing the plants.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein injuring the tropical soda plants comprises dragging a chain-link fence over the plants.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein injuring the tropical soda plants comprises dragging a carpet over the plants.

24. The method of claim 10, wherein the spray application is provided at a pressure of 400 p.s.i. or less.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the spray application is provided at a pressure of between 20 and 100 p.s.i.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein said spray application is provided by a sprayer that is operated from a vehicle.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein said spray application is provided at a pressure of 20 p.s.i. or less.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said spray application is provide by a backpack sprayer.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of injuring the tropical soda plants prior to applying said inoculation suspension.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein injuring the tropical soda plants comprises mowing the plants.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein injuring the tropical soda plants comprises dragging a chain-link fence over the plants.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein injuring the tropical soda plants comprises dragging a carpet over the plants.